

filed on November 13, 1996, fully addresses the outstanding Official Action dated June 13, 1996.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. The rejection is traversed. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner urges that claim 4 is indefinite for not specifying the lower limit of detectability at 3280  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . The Examiner urges that all IR spectrometers have a lower limit of detectability at any given wavelength.

It is applicants' position that the specification is directed to one skilled in the art and that one skilled in the art would know that an absorption band (frequency) at 3280  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  indicates that the deproteinized rubber being analyzed does not exhibit a characteristic feature assigned to that absorption band, in this instance, high molecular weight polypeptides. See, e.g., page 15, line 14. Accordingly, claim 4 is not vague and indefinite. If the Examiner maintains the rejection, he is requested to clarify his reasons for maintaining the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is earnestly solicited.

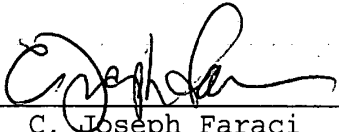
All amendments and arguments presented in the Amendment dated November 13, 1997 are incorporated herein by reference.

Serial No. 08/448,990

Please charge any fees or credit any overpayment pursuant to  
37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 02-2448.

Respectfully submitted,

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